



## National Weather Service Tornado Drill FAQ for Indiana Schools

In recent years, some schools across Indiana have reported difficulty in receiving the statewide tornado drill information from the National Weather Service. There are several important points for school administrators and safety officials to consider:

- 1) We will be using the RWT (Required Weekly Test) code for this year's statewide tornado drill, which WILL NOT sound the warning alarm on all models of weather radio. The model of NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards distributed to most schools by the federal government does NOT alarm for test Emergency Alert System (EAS) codes, such as the ones that will be used for this year's drill, and the ones that are used for the weekly radio tests. The TOR code used for actual tornado warnings WILL sound the warning alarm on all models of weather radio.
- 2) Some schools have reported relying on outdoor warning sirens for severe weather warning information. This is extremely dangerous and discouraged. As the name suggests, outdoor warning sirens are designed to alert only those people who are outdoors and away from other sources of emergency weather information. The sirens are NOT designed to be heard inside buildings.
- 3) Schools should also remember to consider alternate/redundant sources for severe weather information, such as local radio or television stations.

If you have questions about weather safety for your school, please contact the National Weather Service at 1-800-499-2133, or the Indiana Department of Education at 317-232-0890.

### **NWS Offices Serving Indiana:**

Indianapolis – [weather.gov/ind](http://weather.gov/ind)  
Northern Indiana – [weather.gov/iwx](http://weather.gov/iwx)  
Chicago, IL – [weather.gov/lot](http://weather.gov/lot)  
Wilmington, OH – [weather.gov/iln](http://weather.gov/iln)  
Louisville, KY – [weather.gov/lmk](http://weather.gov/lmk)  
Paducah, KY – [weather.gov/pah](http://weather.gov/pah)